

Commission on the Elimination of Poverty

Steering Committee Meeting

May 10, 2010 – 1:00 p.m.

Phone: 888.251.2909

Access Code: 5162279

1) Go over draft outline of the Poverty Elimination Strategy

- Include what commission has done thus far, how it's been organized, and then recommendations
- Maria Wheelan: In intro or letter from governor or letter from co-chairs, need to set context for this (human rights lens, deep poverty lens, doability lens); public sector responses is what our response through this report is, but there are other responses (e.g. private sector solutions for ending deep poverty)
- Contextualize human rights framework to poverty reduction strategies utilized around the world (in intro of report); include global conversation around poverty targets
- Include National context of conversations about poverty targets – include NAS new definition of poverty measure
- Beyond 2015: Include Ideas that don't necessarily help us hit our 2015 target necessarily, but just help people get out of poverty in general (e.g. asset building strategies, mobile food programs); maybe can call it "Supporting Strategies" and then do a third section "Further Considerations for the Future"

2) Status update on Working Committees and discussion

- Maria Wheelan (Making Work Pay Committee): Almost done with finalizing recommendations; May 21st last committee meeting
- May 26th is the last committee meeting (Making Work Accessible Committee)
- The Living With Dignity Committee will have its final committee meeting in next couple of weeks

3) Update on Policy Ideas from the National Governor's Association convening

- Toni suggested adding this piece (National Governor's Association meeting) to the agenda; Doug and Toni attended a conference in DC organized by National Governor's Association;
 - Lots of people around the country are further ahead than us in their plans to end poverty;
 - One idea was to ask Target to give a discount on gift cards (20%) and use some of the TANF emergency fund \$ that way;

- Also strategies to make income supports more accessible: utilizing technology better, get rid of asset tests, more accessible places in community setting for people to get their income support benefits
- MN and CT utilize Urban Institute Poverty Reduction model in their reports to show impact of recommendations on poverty level in their state;
- Some states weren't ready to do something with their report recommendations once their poverty report was released in terms of implementing the recommendations (didn't have a connection with advocacy infrastructure in their state...their poverty commissions are housed more within the state body)

4) Discussion of possible broad recommendations for the report

- a) Integration of comprehensive poverty measure into planning/policy making at the agency level
 - Tools state can use to better focus its work around poverty reduction (not just 2015 goal);
 - Poverty reduction model tool to test out effects of recommendations;
 - b) Adoption of a poverty impact statement for use in the legislative process
 - Poverty impact statement idea (similar to fiscal impact notes): who would do this? Contracted individual/org. (e.g. university/think tank/Urban Institute) that is contracted with the commission?
 - Poverty Commission would be the body to ask for the Poverty Impact Statement;
 - General Assembly members could ask poverty commission to find out about return on investment of certain pieces of legislation;
 - Maybe we can just say that General Assembly should be able to ask a body within the government to see how a piece of legislation will impact poverty in IL
- Hunger Commission about to kick-in in IL as well, and there is a Human Services Commission as well in IL; right now in IL, there are too many commissions that duplicate efforts and resources at the state level
- Poverty Commission will be responsible for issuing annual reports until 2015 once the initial recommendations report comes out this fall

5) Funding Update & Discussion

- Toni brought up the point that Jack Franks recommended de-funding of all commissions this past Friday, May 7th!
- No foundations secured for funding right now; hoping that Toni can call Chicago Community Trust to talk to MacArthur Foundation and they can both give us discretionary funding for the poverty commission; Toni said the state has many funding requests to the Chicago Community Trust right now so uncomfortable with asking Chicago Community Trust for \$ for poverty commission right now; Maybe we can use Jim as a member of the commission to find out more from the Chicago Community Trust about funding

-Julie Stash sent Heartland a letter and Sid got back to her wanting to know what info. she needed exactly

-Urban Institute is constructing a baseline of the comprehensive measure for IL in a report; Doug has not heard from them as to when that will be ready, but was supposed to be ready at end of this month (May, 2010);

-Sid: Hoping Urban Institute could use their existing funding to do a report on IL, MN, and CT and how their poverty elimination recommendations would impact their poverty levels in their states

6) Next Meeting – June 7

-In the near future, need to think about the rollout of Report and how to turn it into an agenda; current recommendations require some legislative and administrative changes (e.g. Payday loans issue in IL needs to be addressed by a legislative change)

- Need to adopt a strategy/framework for implementation of recommendations in report; maybe can talk more about this in next meeting once have list of recommendations from committees;

- The plan is to layout the implementation of recommendations on an annual basis;

- Can also utilize members of the From Poverty To Opportunity Campaign to help

- push the implementation of the commission's recommendations

*Next Meeting – June 7th, 2010